

Michigan's Sex Offender Registry  
And  
The Adam Walsh Act

Today there are over 47 thousand persons on Michigan's Sex Offender Registry. This is more than two times as many as Ohio and Illinois combined and over four times as many as Pennsylvania, while each of these states has a larger population than Michigan.

Michigan's registry includes far too many individuals (perhaps as many as 90 – 95%) who are at low-risk for re-offense.

This out-of-control registry can actually be harmful to public safety by diluting the ability to identify the most dangerous offenders and places an undue burden on our law enforcement and criminal justice systems, which takes precious time and resources that we can ill afford to waste. The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence highly encourages risk assessments for these very reasons.

The social ramifications of being on the registry are staggering: hindering one's access to employment, housing, education and healthy social relationships; which are all an integral part of recovery and re-entry into society. It not only destroys individuals but thousands of families and innocent children who are separated from parents, especially fathers. They are ostracized in school and from playmates. This does not help to build a healthy and safe society when the very basic unit of society, the family, is destroyed.

Statistics prove that children from broken families comprise the majority of school failures and dropouts and juvenile delinquents. Gangs become their substitute for family ~~after~~ <sup>often</sup> resulting in the use and perpetuation of drugs and other crimes.

Statistics also show that more than 80% of male inmates were raised without a father in the home. Our S.O.R. perpetuates this.

Despite federal pressure to comply with the Adam Walsh Act, states do not have to comply. At this time only a handful of states have even attempted to comply but none were approved as meeting the requirements for compliance. Implementation and on-going expenses resulting from this Act are very costly.

An increasing number of organizations and states are opposed to the implementation of the Adam Walsh Act.

In light of what is happening in our country today as has been demonstrated in our most recent election, our citizens will no longer accept a tyrannical government over-stepping it's Constitutional bountries and forcing states to comply.

On a personal note, my husband was found guilty of possession of internet child pornography. He was diagnosed to be a sex-addict but not a child molester or pedophile by a highly qualified psychologist, a nationally recognized psychiatrist of sexual disorders and a sexual clinician. All stated that he is not a danger or threat to children or to society. This was further substantiated by a thorough investigation by Child Protective Services and by several polygraph tests. He is presently completing a 12 step recovery program for sexual addictions.

He paid a huge fine and served two years in prison, but he will continue to be punished for another 25 years on the S.O.R.

Mike was and still is a very loving, caring, and compassionate husband, father, grandfather, and citizen who was always involved in our Church and community.

Just one example would be the more than a dozen Angel Flights and Wings of Mercy Flights that he provided, without financial assistance, to critically ill cancer and burn and organ transplant patients. One of his last flights involved transporting a dying man and his wife from Michigan to Texas to be reunited with his family just days before he passed away. This flight was a high risk flight, which took two days both ways as he skirted around the bad weather and thunderstorms.

I fear he will no longer be allowed to do this because of the S. O. R. He has joined the ranks of the over 47 thousand who are not given a second chance to prove that they can change and make a worthy contribution to our society.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

*Suzanne*